

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please cancel the current Abstract and replace it with the following new Abstract attached herewith on a separate sheet:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, lines 8-10 with the following amended paragraph:

**Brief description of the figure**

Fig. 1 shows the histological analysis of serial sections from abdominal aorta two weeks 10 after gene/DNA transfer. Panels A, C, E, G, I, K and M represent the EC-SOD group, and panels B, D, F, H, J, L, and N represent the Lac 2 group. Arrows indicate the location of internal lamina A and B, C, and D elastic lamina determination; E and F endothelium staining (CD-31); G and H BrdU staining; I and J macrophage staining (RAM 11); K and L NADPH-oxidase staining (p67 phox); and M and N SMC staining (H-35).